



THOMAS G. BRUTON  
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

312-435-5670

April 25, 2017

**GUIDELINES FOR PROCEEDINGS**  
**15 CR 620 *U.S.A. vs. Byrd-Bennett et al.***

The following media guidelines will apply in connection with the sentencing hearing in *U.S.A. v. Byrd-Bennett, et al.*, 15 CR 620, scheduled to commence at 1 p.m. on April 28, 2017, in Courtroom 2119.

- The Courthouse will open at 7 a.m.
- The U.S. Marshals Service will be in charge of providing security and may limit seating as necessary to ensure the safety of all present.
- During the sentencing hearing, the first two rows of Courtroom 2119 will be reserved.
- The first two rows on the south end of Courtroom 2119 will be reserved for news organizations that have reporters assigned to the courthouse on a full-time basis: Associated Press, Bloomberg News, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Law 360, and WBBM-AM. Each organization is allowed one reserved seat in these rows and must be present at 12:45 p.m. in the public corridor outside Courtroom 2119. Sketch artists will also be provided a seat in these rows and must be present at 12:45 p.m. in the public corridor outside Courtroom 2119.
- Members of the media may be asked to provide valid credentials issued by their recognized news organization.
- Beginning at 12:30 p.m. all other media and public may line up in the public corridor outside Courtroom 2119. Admission to Courtroom 2119 will be on a first come, first served basis. Once all seats are occupied, the courtroom will be closed and those without seats will be directed to overflow Courtroom 1700. Overflow Courtroom 1700 will only be available if Courtroom 2119 is full.
- Courtroom 1700 will serve as an audio and video overflow courtroom. Members of the media may use laptops and smart phones, etc. to work on their stories in Courtroom 1700 but may not record, stream, or photograph while in the courtroom pursuant to Local Rule 83.1.
- All cellphones and other electronic devices must be turned to “silent mode” while in Courtroom 2119 and overflow Courtroom 1700.

- The media may use hand-held mobile devices such as smart phones, etc., to work on their stories in Courtroom 2119 and overflow Courtroom 1700, but many not record, stream, or photograph while in the courtroom pursuant to Local Rule 83.1.
- Making or receiving phone calls in Courtrooms 2119 and 1700 during the proceeding is prohibited.
- Due to other court proceedings, media and spectators shall leave the courtroom immediately after the proceeding.
- Photographing and video or audio recording or transmission of court proceedings is prohibited.
- No beverages or food (other than water at counsel table or the witness stand) are allowed in the courtroom.
- No conversations or disruptive gestures are permitted in the courtroom.
- No interviews or interview requests are permitted on the 21st floor or any other floor of the E.M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse other than in the lobby, pursuant to General Order 07-001.
- Pursuant to General Order 07-001, found at [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov), Clerk's Office Page/Media Information, interviews may occur only in the media area of the lobby. Filming of any security equipment or uniformed security personnel is prohibited.
- Media personnel will have lobby access until 6:00 p.m.
- The recording, streaming, or use of cameras is not allowed in the courthouse, except in the media area of the lobby.
- Cameras, photography, and recording are prohibited in all areas of the courthouse except in the media area of the lobby.
- The U.S. Marshals Service is allowed to restrict the entrance to the media area in the lobby should there arise a life safety issue with occupancy.
- The media and public are reminded that public safety must be considered, and any action that may cause an unsafe environment will be addressed by the U.S. Marshals Service. No member of the public or the media can block an entrance or exit to the Courthouse.
- Failure to comply with these rules will result in removal from the courtroom.

**Contact:** Additional information, regulations, and prohibitions are on the court's website, [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov), and posted in the media area of the lobby. If you have any questions regarding the guidelines, please contact Julie Hodek at (312) 435-5693.